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Old Age Pensions. Following close upon the report made by the Massachusetts Commission on old-age pensions, annuities and insurance, the New Jersey Legislature passed a resolution for the appointment of a Commission of five representative men to investigate and report to the Governor the draft of a bill providing a plan for Industrial Old-age Pensions, for consideration and action by the next General Assembly of the State. It is stated in the preamble of the resolution that it should be the duty of the State to prevent and, as far as possible, to modify the deplorable condition of those who are powerless and helpless on account of age. "The so-called civilized industrialism of our day can be subject to no stronger criticism than the charge fortified by universal experience that the men and women whose productive energy have contributed so much to our wealth, progress and development, leading simple, inexpensive lives, become in their declining years powerless, principally because they are penniless."

Evidently the legislation of other countries is beginning to arouse interest in the subject of old-age pensions.

H. E. F.

Public Utilities. Five states now provide for state commissions for the control of public service corporations. Massachusetts and New York were the pioneers by establishing commissions for the control of gas and electric public service corporations, Massachusetts in 1885, New York in 1905. In 1907, New York and Wisconsin took a long step and provided for the control by one commission of practically all public service corporations. In each case they were placed under the same control as common carriers.

The model laws of these states and their efficient workings seemed to presage an era of public utility control by state commissions. Nearly every legislature in 1909 considered bills modeled on these laws. The governors of many of the leading states gave strong recommendations for such commissions, but the net result of the sessions of 1909 was practically nothing. Many states seemed to prefer to await the further development of this system of control in New York and Wisconsin. The bitterest fights took place in Connecticut and New Jersey. In the former state a special commission made a valuable report on the subject, but the bill was defeated by a narrow margin. In the latter state, a determined effort was made by Governor Fort for a state law both in 1908 and 1909, but his efforts were without result during those years. The legislature of New York in 1909 after defeating in two sessions the